the Richmond Review

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Outside Lands Generates Mixed Impact on Local Businesses

Singer K. Flay performs at the 2024 Outside Lands Music Festival in Golden Gate Park on Aug. 9. *Photo by Ben Kozakiewicz.*

By Megan Robertson

Eyes turned to the Richmond District Aug. 9-11, as nearby Golden Gate Park held one of the largest and most beloved music festivals in the United States, according to TimeOut.

Just having completed its 16th year in the park, Outside Lands drew more than 200,000 people to the surrounding neighborhoods. Among the 79 groups performing, indie-rock band The Killers, "Espresso" pop sensation Sabrina Carpenter and country singer Sturgill Simpson headlined.

As festivalgoers flocked to the neighborhoods, local businesses ramped up for what was expected to be one of the busiest weekends of the year. However, this year, the festival seems to be marked by mixed perceptions from local business owners, with it greatly expanding sales for some, and bringing in less than expected for others.

Jose M. Castillo has been the owner of Cielito Lindo on Balboa Street for six years.

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Fate of the Upper Great Highway Debated

By Thomas K. Pendergast

The debate over the fate of the Upper Great Highway (UGH) between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard continues, with public radio station KALW recently hosting a forum on Aug. 20 at its downtown studio about Proposition K, a November ballot measure to permanently ban private motor vehicle traffic with the expectation of eventually turning it into an oceanfront park.

District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, who put the measure on the ballot, as well as Lucas Lux, president of the Friends of Great Highway Park, were there to argue in favor of it and District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, along with former SFPD Commander Richard Corriea, argued against it.

The proposition follows a decision by the SF Board of Supervisors to close the Great Highway extension south of Sloat to Skyline Boulevard because of severe erosion and the threat this poses to an adjacent sewage treatment plant.

"The Great Highway has lost its greatest utility as a direct connection to Daly City, so now we have to decide what's the best use of the section between Lincoln and Sloat, which doesn't have any on and off ramps for cars," Engardio said. "So, turning this section into a park is what is being proposed. The Great Highway between the Richmond District and Lincoln will remain open to cars 24/7 for access to the Sunset District, just as it always has, that's what's staying the same."

"I do not support a winner-take-all approach and that is what Proposition K is about," Chan responded. "The way that I see Prop. K is a divisive approach to a land use issue. What we need to do and ought to do is to – through a legislative process, a public process

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State Health Rules Prohibit Pets at Farmers Markets

By Linda Badger

Many San Franciscans love shopping for organic produce and artisan foods at their local farmers markets. Many San Franciscans are also notoriously fond of their dogs and like to take them everywhere, including to their local farmers markets.

Farmers markets, however, post "no pets allowed" signs to keep dogs out. In so doing, the markets are complying with specific state laws enforced by local authorities.

Dogs in farmers markets are illegal under California Health and Safety Code Section 11425.5(b)(7), which prohibits dogs, or any other live animals, unless "kept at least 20 feet (6 meters) from any … certified farmers market." Similarly, Health and Safety Code 114371(d), which sets out the requirements that certified farmers markets must follow, states that "no individual shall bring a live animal … within 20 feet of any area where food is stored or held for sale within a certified farmers market."

If a certified farmers market fails to comply with these laws, it could lose its permit to operate or face fines.

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) exempts "service dogs" from this state prohibition. The term "service dog" is narrowly defined as "any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability." The definition is limited to dogs and, in some cases, miniature horses.

"Emotional support dogs" that provide comfort simply by being with a person, do

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CYC Debuts New Inner Richmond Site at 952 Clement St.

By Elsie Scott

CYC
Community Youth Center

Dozens of community members attend the grand opening event at the new Community Youth Center (CYC) at 952 Clement St. on Aug. 10. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (L-R) District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, CYC Board Chair Jaynry Mak, SF Mayor London Breed, CYC Executive Director Sarah Wan and State Assemblymember Phil Ting. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Few people might see a connection between a building on Clement Street and the dragon boat racers on Lake Merced. However, the paddlers on the lake may have been practicing on the roof of the new Community Youth Center (CYC) at 952 Clement St., on the corner of 11th Avenue.

On Aug. 10, CYC successfully opened its new community hub in the Richmond District.

At the ceremony, many CYC members and San Francisco officials delivered speeches expressing gratitude and future goals for their community. Among the speakers were SF Mayor London Breed, Richmond District Supervisor Connie Chan, Assemblymember Phil Ting and CYC Executive Director Sarah Wan.

"The opening of CYC's Richmond Community Hub marks a new chapter for the Richmond District," Breed said. "This key community access point on the west side of our City will further strengthen our commitment and ongoing partnership with CYC in providing essential services to youth, seniors and families through a wide range of culturally and linguistically competent programs."

Prior to the start of public tours, a red ribbon was cut to symbolize the official grand opening of the building. Traditional Chinese drumming, dragon dances and fireworks concluded the ceremony with

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Outside Lands

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Historically, Outside Lands is one of the best weekends for this Mexican restaurant.

"Outside Lands is a great thing. I wait for it every year," Castillo said. "I see a bunch of people coming from different states, and from Spain and England. But this year, that was different. It wasn't as good for business in the neighborhood this year."

Castillo noticed a 40% decrease in anticipated sales for the weekend. Typically, the restaurant is packed every day of the festival. This year, they saw business staggered toward the beginning and end of each day.

Next door to Castillo's restaurant, neighborhood favorite Simple Pleasures noticed a similar decrease in expected sales. Ahmed Riad, owner of the coffeehouse, said that although they had many customers in the hours before the festival, the restaurant was not as busy as it typically has been throughout festival days.

"(Outside Lands) doesn't bring the bump that it used to bring," Riad said.

Riad wants festivalgoers to be allowed re-entry into the park, thereby allowing them to leave the festival when they want to support local businesses between artists' sets.

"I think we should allow people to walk in and out. Because it really brings business … and the cost of operating in the city is horrendously expensive. We really do need the bump we can get," he said.

For other businesses in the Richmond, Outside Lands was quite productive for sales.

The Outside Lands Music Festival does not allow in-and-out privledges but does provide a variety – yet pricey – selection of food. This mozzarella Korean corn dog cost $16. *Photos by Téa Eristavi.*

Purple Kow has been a staple in the Richmond since 2011, best known for its organic boba and fried chicken. Manager Eric Lam said the shop is typically quite busy every time Outside Lands rolls around. This year was no exception, with the first two days of the festival especially packing the restaurant. Despite the rush, Lam said he enjoyed the connections he was able to make with out-of-town festivalgoers new to the area.

"It was nice talking to people," Lam said. "Everybody's happy for the event. It's good vibes."

Some Richmond District businesses were able to increase their profits during Outside Lands by selling food directly inside the festival grounds in Golden Gate Park, as part of their "Taste of the Bay" pop-ups.

Batches Bakehouse, on Fourth Avenue at Clement Street, opened this year. Owner Ashlee Thompson got the opportunity at the last minute to have a Batches booth in the festival.

"It was crazy," she said. "We ended up having to go buy a new freezer because we needed more space to store things."

Thompson found the festival to be a great success, as they sold out in the park every day, meanwhile having lines down the block at their Inner Richmond location.

"Being in this neighborhood has been so wonderful, so to have a festival that's in the neighborhood is very nice," she said. "50-70% of our customers are returning, and so to see those people in the park, or to help new people in the park, and then see them (at our shop) this past weekend is very, very inspiring"

Mari Quinton is a Richmond District resident who went to Outside Lands for the second time this year. From Quinton's experience, it was much easier to eat at the "Taste of the Bay" offerings inside the park, because there were so many artists she wanted to see throughout the day.

In addition to the official headliners, Quinton was one of thousands who camped out for artists other than just the headlining sets.

Out of the many musicians drawing her to the festival, Quinton was especially excited to see Chappell Roan. The queer-pop sensation was scheduled for a 4 p.m. slot and ended up drawing more than 50,000 people to her set, bringing more than that evening's headliner. Having musicians like Roan play at different times, meant that many camped at the festival all day.

"There was never really any time to be able to leave the festival early and go get food anywhere else, so it was good that we had the option to be able to eat there," Quinton said.

Although local businesses had varying levels of interaction and success with the festival this year, it brought new visitors, excitement and revenue to the neighborhood. Some business owners, like Riad, want more events like Outside Lands in San Francisco, to increase both the business and the culture of the city.

"Events and festivities make for a happier city, happier people. We need young people to come (out,)" Riad said. "You need the people who are going to come out and spend money, and hang out with their friends, and walk down the streets at night, and give the city a soul."

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Two unidentified festivalgoers brought their own food into Outside Lands.

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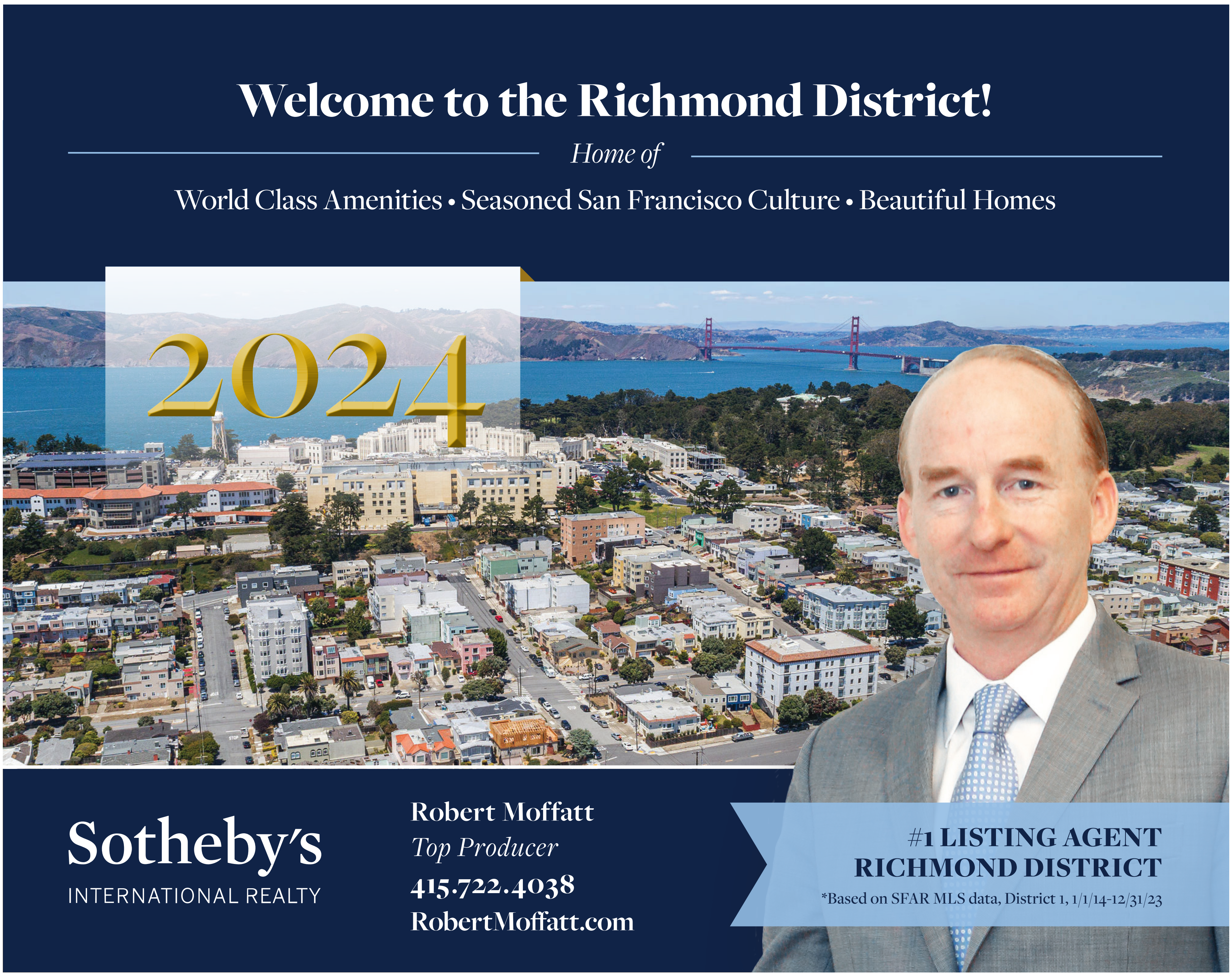
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Supervisor Connie Chan

Advancing Traffic Safety

Transit safety means making our streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists. Advancing transit safety is paramount to creating a safe and accessible neighborhood for everyone. Since our time in office, we have been working on a number of transit-safety projects with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for the Richmond District.

Pedestrian Flashing Beacon on Geary Boulevard

In December 2020, before I was sworn in as your supervisor, a tragic accident at 38th Avenue and Geary Boulevard took the life of Lawrence "Larry" Holman. Since then, I have been pushing the SFMTA to install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the intersection. Finally, this week, the RRFB which includes a pedestrian push button, flashing lights, and better signage will be activated, allowing pedestrians to safely cross Geary at 38th. It is terrible that it took a tragedy to add this safety precaution, and more frustrating that it took the department almost four years to finally install the beacon, but hopefully this installation will prevent future tragedies.

Safety Improvements on Fulton Street

We can do more to prevent the tragic collisions we have experienced on our thoroughfares. We hear from neighbors regularly about the unsafe speeds motorists use along Geary Boulevard and Fulton Street. Working with state Assemblymember Phil Ting's office, we secured funding for three speed cameras to be installed along these corridors. They will be placed on Fulton Street at 42nd Avenue and Arguello Boulevard and on Geary Boulevard at Seventh Avenue. These cameras will begin operation in early 2025. Fulton will also see a speed limit decrease from 30 to 25 mph thanks to a new state law (AB-43) allowing cities to reduce posted speed limits on certain high-injury corridors.

New Stop Signs on Clement Street

We have also received entreaties from neighbors to install stop signs along the Clement Street corridor. After working with residents to identify the unsafe intersections, we pushed SFMTA to install stop signs along Clement at 24th, 26th and 28th avenues to help prevent future collisions. They agreed to two of the stop signs, one to be placed at Clement and 24th and another at Clement and 26th. This will create two new four-way stops at these two intersections and create safer crossings for pedestrians and motorists along Clement.

Tour Bus Restrictions on Eighth Avenue

Our office was also contacted by neighbors living on Eighth Avenue for possible solutions to mitigate chaos and traffic challenges on Eighth Avenue between Cabrillo and Fulton streets. After working with the neighbors and consulting with the city attorney's office and the SFMTA, we finally have a solution.

Earlier this month the SFMTA's Board of Directors voted to amend the Transportation Code to restrict commercial tour buses on Eighth Avenue between Cabrillo and Fulton streets. SFMTA will notify the tour bus companies and install new signage in the area. The high traffic on this block of Eighth Avenue, including Safeway's loading dock and multiple bus lines (44-O'Shaughnessy, 5-Fulton and the 21-Hayes), was exacerbated by the tour buses which added additional noise and congestion. This restriction will hopefully solve the issue of tour buses along the avenues, but our office will actively monitor the situation and be ready to utilize any legislative tools available to mitigate any new issues that may arise.

More Parking for Bikes and Cars on Clement Street

Lastly, the District 1 office has been working on re-imagining Inner Clement Street to better utilize the 2-Clement bus stops. Since the onset of the pandemic, our segment of the 2-Clement has not been operational and SFMTA has not identified funding for it in the future. Given the large amount of space taken up by these bus stops, we asked SFMTA to do more to support the neighborhood corridor. We helped connect with merchants and residents to better understand how to best utilize this space. We have created a plan based on this outreach to convert the 2-Clement bus stops into parking and public spaces, adding bike corrals for safer bicycle parking, space for more parklets and more than 30 new parking spaces on Clement between Arguello and Funston as requested by merchants. This plan must now be reviewed by SFMTA later this fall. If approved, these changes will take place in early 2025.

Working together we can do more to advance transit safety in the Richmond. If you have areas of concern, please reach out. We are here to help.

Connie Chan represents District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at 415-554-7410 or chanstaff@sfgov.org. Find an archive of her columns online at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

CYC Grand Opening

Continued from page 1

lively energy. Refreshments and tote bags were offered for everyone taking the tour.

"I am so excited for the grand opening of the CYC Richmond Community Hub," Chan said. "For over 30 years, CYC has served the Richmond District. I am grateful for CYC's partnership with our office and city departments. Together we provide invaluable services to our youth, with cultural and linguistic competency, empowering them to achieve their goals and give back to our community. The Hub provides a safe and welcoming space to expand CYC programming and continue uplifting our youth and the Richmond District."

Members of CYC and government officials celebrated with the Richmond community at the groundbreaking ceremony in November 2021. The event initiated the building's renovations. The funds for the new construction of the facility heavily relied on the support of Breed, Chan and Ting.

"The process of finally opening up the CYC was not only dependent on one department, but we had a lot of support from the mayor's office, the state Assembly, Phil Ting's office and the volunteer board," Wan said. "It's so happy to finally celebrate the opening of this service hub with everyone."

The CYC offers a variety of activities and events for everyone in San Francisco, specializing in programs for Asian American Pacific Islander youth. During the grand opening event, CYC distributed backpacks and school supplies to children in need. The Richmond Hub Center uniquely features a dragon boat team as well as several job-readiness programs, including Young Adult Worklink, Job Readiness for English Language Learners and the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program.

"I have made many close relationships with my friends and coaches on the dragon boat team at CYC," said a 16-year-old CYC member. "Now that this new building is open, we have a lot more space to practice and plan to have a designated practice spot on the roof."

The CYC also provides support to seniors by hosting technology and computer classes. In partnership with the SF Municipal Transportation Agency, the CYC help to provide accessible transportation to Chinatown. Organizations and people interested in getting involved with the CYC are encouraged to reach out on their website, cycsf.org.

"I'm so proud of the building because it creates so many more opportunities and space to expand our programs," CYC Board Chair Jaynry Mak said. "But this space is not just for CYC, it's also a community center that we hope to inspire other groups and organizations who need space for events or meetings."

The new Richmond Hub aims to extend the CYC by strengthening marginalized members across San Francisco and providing support and opportunity to low-income adults, seniors and youth. The commitment and dedication of the CYC aspires to positively influence the lives of future generations.

"I was a former alumna in the youth leadership program at CYC and it has been special seeing it expand since I started as a youth," Youth Leadership Program Director Daphne Wong-Ha said. "Now with this large space, there's so many more youth that we can accommodate and so many more programs and services. Hopefully this building will become a space that youth can gather together and feel like they can call home."

Before and after: The interior of 952 Clement St. (above) at the groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 10, 2021, for the Community Youth Center and the completed building (below) at the grand opening event on Aug. 10. *Photos by Michael Durand.*

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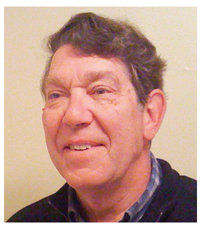

Paul Kozakiewicz

There is No Plan for UGH Park

On June 18, the last day the SF Board of Supervisors was allowed to place an initiative on the Nov. 5 ballot, District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar and three other supervisors sent legislation to the SF Department of Elections calling for the closure of the Upper Great Highway (UGH). It took only five supervisors to put Proposition K on the ballot.

In the Sunset District, Engardio did not discuss or disclose anything about the proposal before springing it on his constituents. (He has a monthly column published in the Sunset Beacon where he could have discussed it.)

One group that did not take kindly to being kept in the dark about such an important transportation decision is the Chinese community.

Josephine Zhao, president of the Chinese American Democratic Club, which supports keeping the UGH open for everyone, said the issue is very important for the Chinese community.

She had a message for Engardio: "You work for us, you do not work against us."

Proposition K:

- Causes needless divisiveness among westside residents where passions over the issue are boiling over, especially on social media.
- Stops any potential compromise between stakeholders as to how the UGH is shared.
- Could permanently end a pilot program whereby the roadway is open for traffic weekdays and closed for other uses on weekends.
- Diverts more than 14,000 vehicles a day, a number that has been increasing over the last four years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving traffic from the UGH to Sunset Boulevard, a high-risk injury corridor, is in direct conflict with the City's Vision Zero plan. (Before the pandemic, the SFMTA counted 23,500 vehicles a day on average using the UGH.)
- Constricts the ability of westside residents to move freely, efficiently and the most climate-friendly way.
- Ignores the fact that the City is planning increased housing density in the Richmond and Sunset districts, significantly increasing the number of people living on the west side.
- Necessitates the expense of continually removing sand from the UGH because Prop. K requires a portion of the UGH to be open and accessible to emergency vehicles.
- Determines that the portion of the UGH from Sloat to Skyline boulevards has to be closed due to "managed retreat," but that determination was made before the SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) voted in July to build a seawall to protect the Westside Treatment Plant. The seawall could also protect the historic use of the UGH and restore a vital connection without extensive traffic detours. (It is also a bone of contention for surfers, who say the seawall could destroy a prime surfing spot.)

Mayoral Candidates Say "No" on Prop. K

Politicians who want to keep the UGH open for all include three of the four major mayoral candidates – Daniel Lurie, Mark Farrell and Aaron Peskin, president of the SF Board of Supervisors.

Additionally voting "no" on Prop. K is District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan, who is fighting on behalf of Richmond District residents, and District 7 mayoral candidates Stephen Martin-Pinto and Matt Boschetto.

"The Upper Great Highway is an indispensable traffic artery," Boschetto said.

Also, the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR), one of the oldest neighborhood organizations in the City, is against closing the UGH to private vehicles.

Mayor London Breed, who has been no friend to the west side, supports converting the UGH into a Great Sand Dune.

Before being elected in District 4, Engardio said he supported the current compromise whereby everyone shared the road. He abandoned that position to hatch Prop. K.

Merchants Don't Believe Claims

Those who want to close the UGH to private and commercial vehicles say it will be good for local businesses.

But the Taraval Street merchants association – People of Parkside Sunset (POPS) – Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants Association, Irving Street Merchants Association and Chinatown Merchants Association (Richmond and Sunset branches) oppose closing the UGH because it limits the ability of merchants' regular customers to get to their stores. They do not believe Prop. K does anything to bring in new customers since it only closes a highway and does not provide any planning or resources for a park.

I'm still searching for a westside merchants' organization that supports the closure of the UGH.

Public Safety at Risk by Closing UGH

There was a protest at the V.A. Hospital in the Outer Richmond on Aug. 10, with several veterans speaking out against Prop. K.

Mike Regan is a Vietnam War veteran who lives in Ingleside Terrace and has difficulty driving. He said his commute to the V.A. Hospital is about 15-20 minutes longer when the UGH is closed.

It was pointed out at the protest that the SF Fire Department's surf and cliff rescue unit is housed a block away at the firehouse at 42nd Avenue and Geary Boulevard.

Because many of the unit's rescues occur at Ft. Funston, the lives of people and pets could be at risk because of slower emergency vehicle response times.

When the UGH was initially closed on a permanent basis for the COVID-19 pandemic, the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) installed plastic poles in the intersections on Lincoln Way, to about 42nd Avenue, stopping vehicles from turning into the Outer Sunset.

Residents living within six blocks or so of the beach had to travel miles

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Real Estate

John M. Lee

Fall Real Estate Outlook

As a student of real estate my entire life, 2024 holds special interest for me as we are currently going through a market in transition. Normally in September I write about what we can expect in our fall real estate market because it marks the start of our second selling season of the year in San Francisco.

Our two best seasons are in the spring, from February to June, and then in the fall after Labor Day, from September to Thanksgiving. Our summers are normally slow because many people take vacations which means buyers, sellers and agents are out of town, thus delaying the buying or selling decisions until they get back. There are also many weekend events such as the SF Marathon and Outside Lands concert during the summer that take the focus off of real estate.

Our July median sales price for single-family homes in San Francisco is at $1,625,625, up 4.9% year over year. This number started turning positive last year. The sales volume is up about 14.6%, months of inventory is at 1.8 months, meaning that it will take almost two months to sell all the listings currently on the market, a fairly low number.

In many ways, this is still a confusing market with many economists disagreeing on where this market will go. On one side, you have the pessimist who says that our prices have gone straight up for 12 years in a row, and we have to go further down before prices will go up. With inflation of the last few years, tech companies announcing layoffs, interest rates still much higher than before, and a stock market that just survived a major correction in August, we are looking at further price declines.

On the other side, you have experts arguing that our economy is still doing well. Unemployment is down, people have adjusted from the pandemic, inflationary pressures are under control, mortgage interest rates have gone down, and the feds have signaled that they will cut the rates in September. This is an election year, so the Democrats will do whatever they can to boost the economy to increase their chances of winning in November.

Both sides have legitimate reasons for their beliefs. Nobody has said that double digit appreciation is around the corner yet.

So, this brings the question of what will happen in the fall? I think it will be more of the same as the real estate market does not stop. There will always be people who want to buy and people who want to sell. Because the prices have dropped a little from the peak, and many sellers have low mortgage rates either because they purchased the property a while ago or they refinanced it, they are reluctant to sell and thus this will keep the single-family housing listing inventory low. Prices are dependent on the supply and demand balance, so this helps to boost prices. I believe that with the anticipated interest rate decrease, the floor has been set for this next cycle.

The larger area of concern is the investment market where interest rates are still high and insurance is difficult to get; plus, the property most likely is under rent control, limiting revenue growth. Many listings are lingering on the market searching for the correct price point in today's market and I believe that there are buying opportunities in this segment of the market.

What does this mean for the consumer? The best advice is to work with a top-notch real estate professional who is on top of the market to provide you with the insights necessary to fulfill your goals in this changing marketplace.

For sellers, there have been reports of properties staying on the market longer with price adjustments. With the upcoming interest rate decrease though, that should turn the market more toward your favor. There are still quite a number of buyers out there. If your property is priced and marketed correctly, you should still be able to sell at a good price. For buyers, I recommend proceeding with caution. Currently prices are high, but you are buying at a lower interest rate than last year. When the rates come down farther, you can always refinance the loan and come out further ahead. I urge buyers to consider all factors before purchasing.

For people who are looking to trade up, this market is presenting an interesting opportunity to reposition your real estate portfolio for the long term as competition for properties is less than before.

This will be an interesting fall selling season and should give us a taste of how the market will be going into 2025.

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Richmond Homes Sold in August*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
420 41st Ave.	2	1	1,505	$1,500,000
815 37th Ave.	3	1.5	1,670	1,599,999
715 36th Ave.	2	1	1,175	1,610,000
760 47th Ave.	3	2.00	2,080	1,800,000
635 21st Ave.	2	1.50	1,860	1,808,000
471 16th Ave.	4	2.50	2,080	2,000,000
548 Seventh Ave.	3	2.00	1,815	2,150,000
2059 Fulton St.	4	3.00	2,185	2,580,000
539 16th Ave.	4	3.50	2,608	2,900,000
138 Parker Ave.	4	4.50	3,465	4,700,000
66 27th Ave.	4	2.50	2,835	4,950,000

Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.

Small Business Golden State Tennis Takes Center Court on Geary

By James Tanner

Tucked snugly between a nail salon and a sushi joint on Geary Boulevard, a stone's throw from the bustling Park Presidio Boulevard, is Golden State Tennis. This locally owned nook for all things tennis (and pickleball) is a local player's one-stop-shop.

Right off the bat, you are greeted by a wall of rackets – they are well illuminated by the natural light, their frames glistening and beckoning one to give something new a try.

They have everything – bags, shoes and, of course, fresh cans of tennis balls waiting to be cracked open for another game. The shop has plenty of racket-related services, from racket stringing to grips. They even have tennis balls past their prime in a dedicated basket, ready for a new life as a dog's favorite toy.

Gordon Lum is the owner and founder of Golden State Tennis. He has been running the shop since 2018. Behind the counter, he expertly weaves racket strings together, rhythmically moving and precisely adjusting the stringing machine, practicing the art of bringing new rackets to life.

Having grown up in North Beach, Lum learned to play tennis at what was then North Beach Playground, now Joe DiMaggio Playground.

"I started playing tennis in my early teens, around 14," Lum said. "There used to be people there who lent out equipment. I started playing tennis because I have an older brother. It was a sibling rivalry."

Lum's youth in tennis eventually led him to pursue it in high school, playing on Galileo High School's varsity team for four years. Being a passionate young kid in the City, but with limited funds, he learned to string and maintain rackets himself.

Lum's first foray into the tennis business was when he was in college, where he started working for another local sports store, the now-defunct Lombardi Sports, (which once operated on Clement Street). Lombardi's was where he honed his racket-stringing skills from a job of necessity into a career.

"When I got hired there, I told them I knew how to string," Lum said. "But when I strung my first racket, they told me I wasn't very good at it. It took a little while for my skills to meet the standards for retail."

Once in the business, Lum stayed and strung rackets for the people of San Francisco at Lombardi's for nine years, before moving on to work for a tech company for six years. Sales in tech, however, wasn't something he wanted to do forever.

"Working in tech, you get kind of burnt out, doing the same stuff all the time, along with the dynamics and the politics," he said. "I started to think about what made me happy, what benefited my mental health. I decided this would be the best route for me, and it worked out really well."

Having previously run a smaller operation in the Outer Sunset District, Lum moved his store to the Geary location in 2019 after it proved to be a successful concept. After the pandemic, he found tennis thriving in the community. As a volunteer board member of the San Francisco Tennis Coalition, he advocates for tennis in San Francisco outside of just providing goods and services, having helped raise money to renovate the Goldman Tennis Courts in Golden Gate Park.

"We're working really hard to make sure people are playing tennis in the City."

Lum said being part of the tennis community has led him to meet lots of wonderful people, make friends that become customers and find customers that become friends, creating bonds in the tennis community that are centered on the courts and outside in establishments like Golden State Tennis.

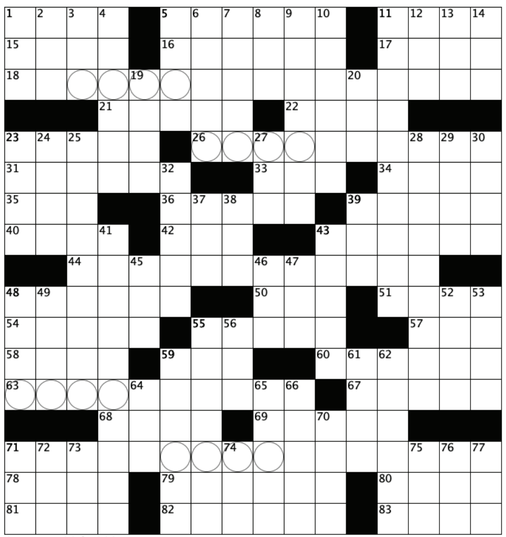
"The common interest really takes things to a new level of friendship," he said.

The shop is in a good location for those in the City who play, being only a short bus ride from the newly renovated courts in Golden Gate Park, as well as a quick hop from the various courts in the Richmond District, like Dupont Tennis Courts and Mountain Lake Park. The store's proximity to Park Presidio Boulevard also makes

Continued on page 18

Switch Speeds

Jess Goldstein



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ACROSS

1. Color shades
5. Hibernating rodent
11. Baby food choice
15. Sandy getaway
16. Comedian and writer Nancherla
17. State whose state bird is the California Gull
18. Pyramid framework in psychology
21. Old Testament book
22. Quickly, briefly
23. Some parents
26. Unable to be woken
31. Controversial feature of a relationship
33. Bud
34. Leaf collector?
35. Copper or hormonal birth control option
36. One having trouble with scissors, maybe
39. Suggested strongly
40. Speaker's platform
42. Long follower?
43. Lil Wayne title referencing a large number
44. Variation in routine, or how to solve 4 of this puzzle's answers
48. Attorney's need
50. Attorney's hurdle
51. "Sick!"
54. Useful
55. "Doppleganger" author Klein
57. Cry of discovery
58. Pre-holiday times
59. Carpool lane letters
60. Admits
63. Replay feature
67. Harris and Biden, e.g.
68. Director Kazan
69. Big fly at the ballpark
71. Wrap with eggs and hash browns
78. Eruption from a crowd
79. Unable to order a kid's scoop, say
80. Tough test
81. Unpleasant obligation
82. Hid away
83. Ire

DOWN

1. He/___ pronouns
2. 2024 Olympics gold medal winner in men's and women's basketball
3. "Lord of the Rings" character
4. Popeye's witchy enemy
5. They may say welcome
6. Church areas
7. Bobby of auto racing fame
8. Medical device that can make a 100 decibel noise
9. So close
10. Pertaining to foot bones
11. "Forbidden" colorful carbohydrate
12. "Yada, yada, yada"
13. Sigh at a spa
14. Owing
19. Chicago hero Sammy
20. Small power sources
23. Minute ___
24. Beverage at a taqueria
25. Prescriptions
27. Decide (to)
28. Balancing and twisting yoga posture
29. First name in stunts
30. Toe treatment
32. Deliver, as a kiss
37. Quiche ingredient
38. Enemy
39. Thurman of "Kill Bill"
41. Cries
43. Clock-changing month
45. Whichever
46. Craigslist haggling letters
47. Sibs or pops
48. Menu planner
49. Red-hot river
52. Breakfast restaurant letters
53. Rips off
55. Just some
56. Prefix for the birds
59. Construction lifts
61. "Would I ___!"
62. Overpowering fear
64. Jan. 15 honoree
65. "I'm impressed!"
66. Like certain gases
70. Anchorman Roger
71. Dude
72. Harry's pal
73. Nice water?
74. "I'm on vacation" letters
75. 401(k) alternative
76. Playground game
77. Stadium cheer

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Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

Nov. 5 Voting Recommendations

Separation of church and state in the United States of America, California and San Francisco could hardly be more complete. The church (or synagogue or mosque) teaches us that money isn't everything but the government, local, state and federal, tells us it is! This is an election year (Nov. 5) which means it's when a lot of politicians get free speech confused with cheap talk.

The federal presidential election offers two cheaters, one of whom did so to defeat the incumbent in 2003 for San Francisco's district attorney after he had hired her the year before as an assistant district attorney, and the other's already been convicted this year of income tax cheating and faces four more criminal and civil trials. It doesn't affect whether Harris, the Democrat, or Trump, the Republican, prevails in California because the Golden State constitutes a one-party state, and no Republicans are wanted for president or government or attorney general or other statewide public offices. For those who are so bold to ask how I'm voting, I plead guilty to eschewing either such candidate (or that "nut job" Robert F. Kennedy Jr. who has now quit and endorsed Trump) in favor of a write-in candidate – me! Therefore, I proceed to the local and state ballot measures in that order.

Proposition A is characterized as a "Schools Improvement and Safety Bond." The failing Board of Education with student enrollment approximately 50,000 (if you believe the School District which I don't) asks voters to authorize the sale of $30 million of general obligation bonds which will, with interest, cost taxpayers another major debt to repay over 30 years. I recommend a "no" vote until the School Board is comprised of commissioners with good business and scholastic sense who don't force citizens themselves to qualify ballot measures like the one last March compelling Algebra education in the eighth grade, causing the commissioners to wise up and restore Algebra to eighth graders themselves before the election at which voters strongly approved that ballot measure led by Diamond Heights resident and former USF Law School Dean John Trasvina. Moreover, we taxpayers must still pay for 2003's Proposition A ($295 million G.O. bond in June 2006's $450 million G.O. bond by June 2035, another $531 million G.O. bond by June 2035 for 2011's Proposition A and $744 million G.O bond by June 2042, emanating from 2016's Proposition A). Simultaneously, California Proposition 2 this November seeks approval of a $10 billion (!) bond to repair schools with declining enrollment statewide. Vote "no" so we don't keep paying debt service until 2047-48!

Another bond, this one for homeless SF residents, follows as Proposition B. This "beauty" bears the title "Community Health and Medical Facilities, Street Safety. Public Spaces and Shelter to Reduce Homelessness Bond" (What a mouthful!). I'll probably vote "yes" unless more prodigal facts emerge before Election Day.

Proposition C adds more bureaucrats to City Hall, an inspector-general's office. We've had a budget analyst since I was an at-large elected supervisor, elected in 1971; we also have an honest controller, a district attorney with a White Collar Crime Bureau and a city attorney to protect residents, visitors, commuters and taxpayers. Vote "no" on C.

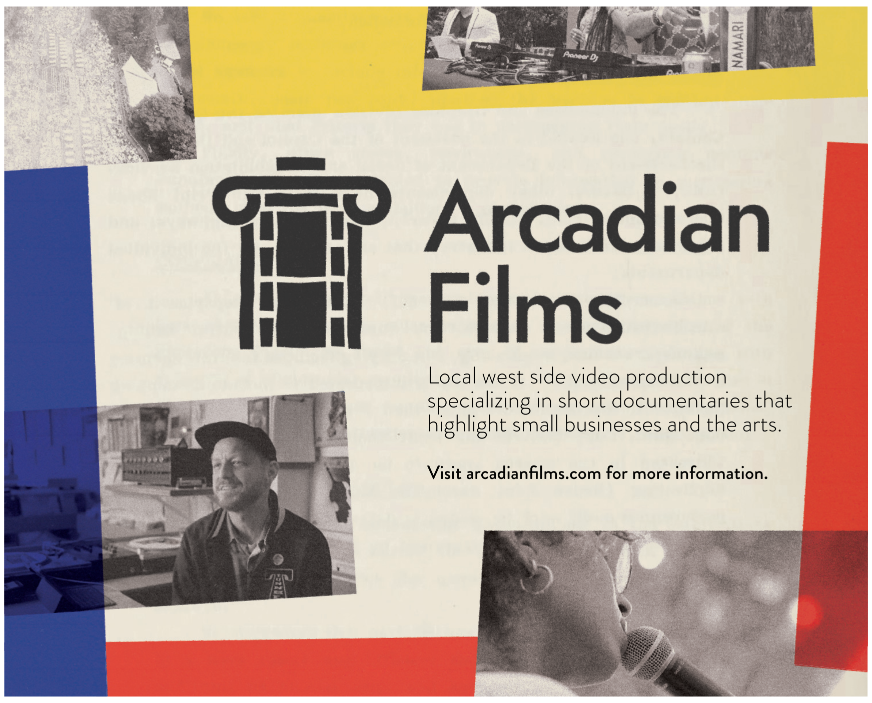
Proposition D will reduce city and county commissioner by one-half from the current 130 to 65 and allow more mayoral flexibility. It's a voter-initiative, unlike Proposition E which creates yet another committee as a "task force" to reduce such bodies! That emanates from our stupidvisors, of course. Vote "yes" on D and "no" on E.

Proposition F is my friend Mayor London Breed's idea of reinforcing the number of cops by paying their retirement benefits (75% of salary) while keeping them on the police force five more years receiving their healthy salaries. It's an unbargained (and naughty) salary increase. Vote "no."

Proposition G is more welfare payment benefits for renters, "low income" seniors, families and disabled residents. San Francisco in the 1970s had the highest welfare payments in California until the Board of Supervisors, led by the late John Barbagelata, passed an ordinance lowering it. Here we go again, attracting more homeless. I'm voting "no."

The same gimmick to maintain police officer numbers infects Prop. H regarding firefighters. This allows them to receive their full pensions if they work another five years. It's a wrong tactic. Pity the taxpayers and vote "no" on H, which Mayor Breed

Continued on page 9



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Quentin L. Kopp

Continued from page 8

surprisingly opposes! Do the same on Prop. I regarding nurses and 911 operators. We do have a shortage of registered nurses (aka "RNs"). But Prop. I would give city nurses retirement credit of three years, plus allowing so-called per diem nurses retirement benefits of three years to encourage them to accept RN positions. The former "gift" will encourage them to retire three years sooner and exacerbate such shortage and increase taxpayer obligations. It's more City Hall madness. Vote "no."

Proposition J represents another giveaway. This one would deliver a gift so the plethora of non-profits staying extant because of taxpayers and overpaying most of their staffs. My friend, the late Supervisor Barbagelata, in the 1970s wanted to reduce the number of city employees and their extravagant pensions by contracting with non-profit corporations to provide local government services. City employee unions fought such legislation which I was co-author. We were mildly successful. Now, that effort to save tax dollars has created over 100 contracts with non-profits which gouge taxpayers with huge staffs and salaries. Proposition J enhances these financial explorers, many of whom have been exposed since 2023 for misconduct. Stop Prop. J by voting "no."

Proposition K was endorsed by The SF Chronicle last month, which arouses voter rejection without my pap. The Upper Great Highway was built with money from the state gasoline tax on motor vehicles. California has the highest state gasoline tax in the U.S.A. Thousands of motor vehicles use the Great Highway Monday to Friday under a deal with the devil which limits motor vehicles to Monday to Friday during working hours, 6 a.m. until noon on Fridays. It is then closed to everyone but bicyclists and walkers until the following Monday at 6 a.m. Board of Supervisors geniuses Joel Engardio, Myrna Melgar, Dean Preston, Rafael Mandleman, Matt Dorsey (surprisingly) and Mayor Breed have endorsed this vehicle-driving taxpayer insult. Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin opposes Prop. K, as he also does the "build new housing" shibboleth trumpeted by State Senator Scott Weiner regarding San Francisco. Richmond District Supervisor Connie Chan also opposes Prop. K. Proposition K adherents claim the Great Highway from Sloat Boulevard to Route 35 will be subjected to such a sea level increase this decade as to render it unusable. That's more City Hall pap; the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association forecasts Ocean Beach will suffer a meager 1-15 inch sea level rise by 2050. Apparently, the SFMTA chief (Jeffrey Tumlin) intends to re-design bus service for bicyclists and pedestrians only because he's another highly paid "yes man," receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to harass voters while Muni's farebox recovery ratio still hovers at less than 25%.

I pause to express my thanks to Judi A. Gorski, a retired art instructor, who lives with her husband on 48th Avenue which is afflicted by motor vehicle traffic galore whenever the Great Highway now closes. Engardio should be recalled for his disregard of constituents. I'll assist. I also endorse closure opponent Supervisor Connie Chan for re-election in the Richmond District.

Prop. L is more taxations, imposing a tax on "Transportation Network Companies" (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft and autonomous vehicles like Waymo and Cruise. The tax endures until repealed by voters. Supervisors can amend it by a two-thirds vote. I suggest strongly a "no" vote on L. I also do on Prop. M, another business tax, while 35% of business offices downtown and on Market Street remain empty. That's City Hall's way to discourage businesses from opening!

Proposition N hands out loans and pays trainees from a City Hall fund for reimbursing city employees for student loans and educational expenses up to $25,000 for cops, firefighters, sheriff's deputies, paramedics, nurses, 911 dispatchers, supervisors or coordinators. Only 51% voter approval is necessary. I'll vote against it on Nov. 5.

Finally, we get to Prop. O, an initiative declaring it official city policy to protect abortions, establish a fund to finance them from "received" money, federal, state or private contributions and restrict our 38,000 or so city officers and employees from cooperating with federal or state prosecutions on abortion cases in California. I'm pro-abortion and not a Roman Catholic and at 96 years of age unlikely to be affected by Prop. O, but I marvel at the political correctness of our elected lawmakers in our one-party City where a candidate needn't pay any attention to the Archdiocese or its members. It wasn't that way during my years on the Board of Supervisors or in the state Senate.

There's no space this month for state ballot measures or public office contests, except I reiterate my support of Mayor Breed, disdain for Harris and Trump and recommend Matt Boschetto for Supervisor in District 7, Leanna Louie for the City College governing board, Ann Sue and Lefteris Eleftheriou for Board of Education. Marjan Philhour in the Richmond endorsed the Great Highway motor vehicle closure and merits no votes on Nov. 5. I do endorse attorney Moe Janil for supervisor in North Beach, Telegraph Hill and Russian Hill to replace Great Highway car closure opponent and Board President Aaron Peskin.

I pilfer from this month's American Legion Magazine by explaining: "How did the tractor salesman find out his wife left him? He came home from work and found a John Deere letter."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

Paul Kozakiewicz

Continued from page 5

around the barricades to get home. (The SFMTA also cut off some northbound turns from Sloat Boulevard.)

Engardio, Melgar and the SFMTA have not done any of the homework needed before a radical plan to close such an important traffic artery to private vehicles is even considered, much less enacted.

Closing Great Highway Will Increase Pollution

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line, and, traveling at a constant speed without stopping and restarting uses less fuel and is environmentally superior.

Prop. K proponents cite SFMTA reports that alternative routes would only cost motorists an extra three minutes of travel time during rush hours, claiming the personal sacrifice is worth it for another park.

But that means drivers needlessly spending hundreds of thousands of hours a year behind the wheel.

And what about the carbon footprint that results from thousands of extra tons of hydrocarbons being released into the environment? I'll leave that up to the scientists to figure out, but I know it's consequential, especially to people living in the Central Valley.

But pollution and a warming climate are not consequential to proponents of Prop. K, where tons of extra pollution, slower emergency response times, wasted hours for westside residents needlessly sitting in traffic, the inability for customers to reach local businesses and the corruption of the public square doesn't matter. For them, the ends justifies the means.

But, lots of San Franciscans (openthegreathighway.com) are fighting to do the right thing despite facing long odds in a citywide election.

The forces pushing for the closure of the UGH claim Prop. K will create a great, world-class park. But there is no plan. Prop. K is just a road closure – an injustice forced on Sunset and Richmond district residents.

Paul Kozakiewicz is an editor and former publisher of the Sunset Beacon and Richmond Review newspapers.

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19th Avenue Project Update

If you're a westside resident like me, you've seen improvements to 19th Avenue; now the City's work on that busy thoroughfare is complete. I've been anxiously awaiting their project to get done, so that the state can begin its own plans to repave the road.

Years ago, lawmakers like me fought to fund transportation projects throughout California. We saw the need to fix our deteriorating roads and highways. Without a reliable way for people to get to work or companies to transport goods, our economy could be negatively impacted.

Our push culminated in Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, which state lawmakers and I approved in 2017. This landmark legislation had been the first time since 1994 that the excise tax on gasoline had increased. With annual adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index, this historic transportation investment brings in an estimated $52 billion over 10 years.

This steady, reliable funding has helped and continues to help cities, counties and public transit agencies tackle an enormous backlog of road maintenance and repairs, as well as make safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists. Senate Bill 1 is helping fuel street repairs in San Francisco, and 19th Avenue was definitely a candidate for SB-1 funds, given its condition.

Repaving had been slated to start last year, but the City's work had to be finished first before the state could proceed. When a city and the state share the responsibility for a particular road, such as 19th Avenue, which is also California Highway 1, collaboration and coordination are required when both want to make improvements.

I understand why local leaders wanted to do the underground work beneath 19th Avenue first before the state repaved it. After all, who wants to rip up a smooth, pothole-free road when aging infrastructure like water and sewer lines need to be replaced? So, the City started with the below-surface upgrades, as well as above-ground work, such as the installation of more sidewalk extensions, curb ramps, bus bulb-outs and traffic lights to make walking safer and public transit more reliable.

That project started in November 2020 and was supposed to take 27 months. Instead, it took longer. During construction, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission proposed to change the new pipeline along 19th Avenue from ductile iron to welded steel to increase pipeline pressure capacity. It can accommodate potable water and be used for emergency fire protection purposes. Changing the material, though, required a redesign and lengthened the time it took to make the new pipeline.

Then, when it was time for installation, the work coincided with the Stern Grove Music Festival. Since the City's Recreation and Park Department has jurisdiction over the venue's plaza entrance, its regulations stipulate that no construction can occur during the summer months. The rule makes sense, considering the size of the crowds going to the concerts and the safety risk the area poses when surfaces are torn up. Both the change in pipeline design and the summer blackout in road work pushed the completion date out to last November.

With the City's project done, CalTrans takes over and will complete the paving of 19th Avenue. You may have noticed a segment near Sloat Boulevard is a lot smoother now. A couple of months ago, CalTrans crews did emergency repaving work on that small stretch. The resident engineer said these recent repairs are a precursor to a broader project scheduled for 19th Avenue.

The state transportation agency will complete the design phase by this November and put the project out for bid in January. Then, the remainder of the state project will begin in the summer of 2025, repaving the north and southbound directions of 19th Avenue, from San Francisco State University to Golden Gate Park.

In the meantime, since there's a lull now, the City has started improvements to Sunset Boulevard, so that it can be used as an alternative route when the main state work on 19th Avenue is underway. When it's all said and done, CalTrans says it would take two years to complete their work.

I'm crossing my fingers, hoping they keep to their timeline of finishing mid-2027. We've all been waiting a long time for a 19th Avenue that serves everyone well.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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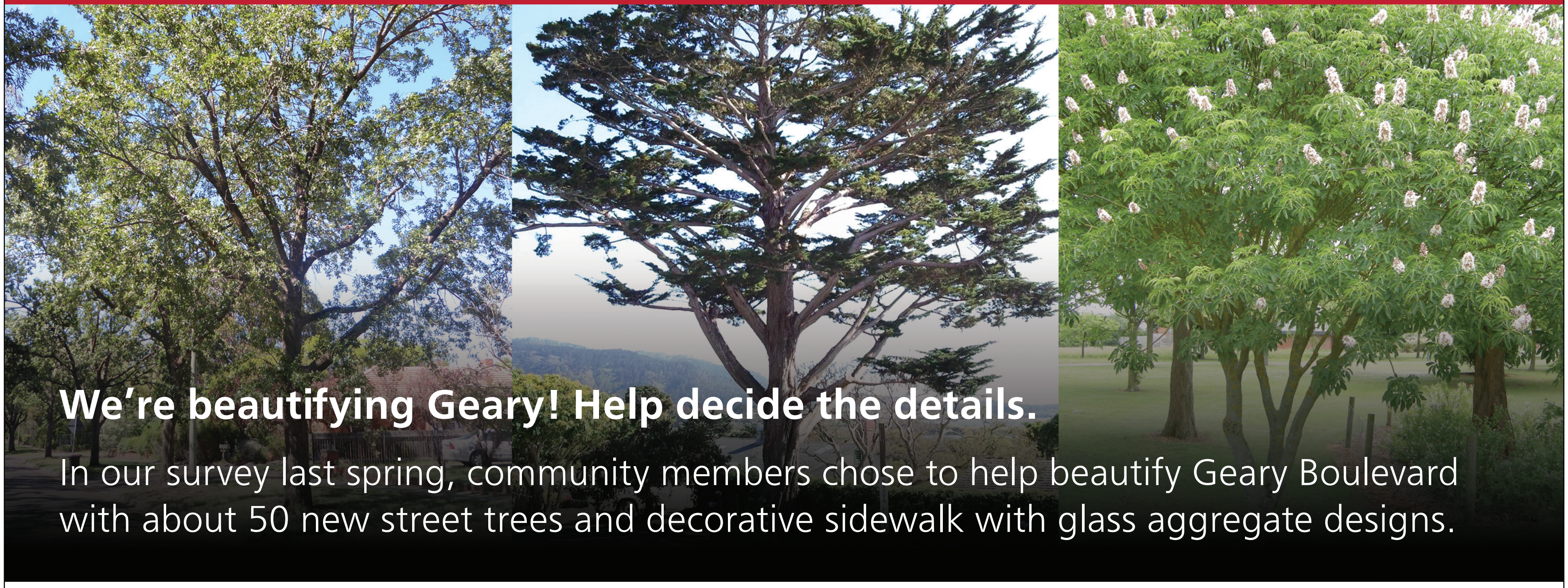

We're beautifying Geary! Help decide the details.

In our survey last spring, community members chose to help beautify Geary Boulevard with about 50 new street trees and decorative sidewalk with glass aggregate designs.

Let us know which tree species and sidewalk designs you prefer by taking our new survey using the QR code below or visiting SFMTA.com/EnhanceGeary.

Join our virtual community meeting to learn more:

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6 P.M. via Zoom

Meeting information and link at SFMTA.com/EnhanceGeary.

☎ **311 Free language assistance** / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Filipino / 무료 언어 지원

To take the survey, scan the QR code or visit:
SFMTA.com/EnhanceGeary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LINCOLN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S CAR SHOW

Abraham Lincoln High School Alumni Association's eighth annual car show takes place on Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the school's parking lot (enter on 22nd Avenue between Quintara and Rivera streets. Free for spectators. Details for exhibitors at lincolnalumni.com/car-show.

BAZAAR CAFE EVENTS

Free events at Bazaar Cafe, 5927 California St. All events at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Music: Friday, Sept. 6, Chris Chandler and singer/songcyclist John Elliot.
Saturday, Sept. 7, The Everyday Items – Vee Maund, Pete Kronowitt and Jamie Wilson.
Friday, Sept. 13, EG Phillips featuring Melinda Kausek and JJ Schultz.
Saturday, Sept. 14, Joel Gentes – album release party.
Saturday, Sept. 28, Mercy Kit and Such Sweet Ruckus.
Every Thursday, all acoustic/all original open mic.
Comedy: Danny Dechi Comedy Showcase, third Fridays.
Civic: Meet and greet Min Chang, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.
Youth: Youth Song Workshop for ages 17 and younger – an open-mic format event to share original songs with peers and learn about music composition. Sunday, Sept. 8, 3 p.m.
Reading: Bazaar Cafe Reading Extravaganza, Sept. 5 and 19, 4 p.m.
Visit bazaarcafe.com for details and any changes.

CASTING CALL

Calling all young (18 and under) readers of the Richmond Review: We're filming a short (one minute) local ad for the newspaper which will run at the 4 Star and Balboa theaters. SF LOCAL SPOTLIGHT is a new grassroots community program spotlighting small businesses at independent neighborhood cinemas in San Francisco. Interested? Contact Nate Zack: nbzack@gmail.com.

CLEMENT STREET ART WALK

Clement Street Art Walk is a monthly community evening event bringing local art to the small businesses on Clement Street. Listen to live music, mingle with your neighbors and enjoy local artists featured at your favorite small businesses while you shop local. Every third Thursday of the month, 5-8 p.m. on Clement Street from Arguello Boulevard to Park Presidio Boulevard (and beyond)! Learn more at clementstreetsf.com.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stances on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

COMMISSIONED SALES POSITION AVAILABLE

Earn extra income while getting to know your neighborhood and neighbors better. Ad sales for the Richmond Review is a fun way to learn more about local businesses. No quota, no set hours, work at your own pace letting business owners know about their advertising options. Generous commissions. Sales experience helps but is not required. To learn more, call 415-706-6428, or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities in the Richmond District. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for one-on-one session in English, Friday, Sept. 13, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Richmond Branch Library (351 Ninth Ave.). We are also seeking volunteers who speak English and/or Cantonese. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FLOWER PIANO

Flower Piano will return to the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park Sept. 13-22, with a special opening night event on Sept. 12 — doubling the duration from last year and spanning two weekends. In the final days of summer, and for the ninth time since 2015, Flower Piano will once again transform San Francisco Botanical Garden into the City's own alfresco concert hall where everyone is invited to play and listen. Learn more at gggp.org/event/flower-piano/.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Richmond Neighborhood Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to help at our food pantries. Assist us in providing essential support to families in need. Sign up today at richmondsf.org/get-involved/volunteer.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, RICHMOND BRANCH
351 NINTH AVE., 415-355-5600

CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMS:

"Storytime: For Babies" Playtime follows directly after the Storytime. Limited to 46 participants, tickets required. Mondays 11-11:30 a.m.

"Storytime: For Toddlers." Playtime follows directly after Storytime. Richmond 10th Avenue Park. Some blankets and chairs provided. In case of extreme weather, Storytime will be held inside. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m.

"Activity: Lego Free Play." Build skyscrapers, forts, castles or whatever your imagination desires with LEGO. For ages 5 and older. Sept. 10, 3:30-5 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

"Performance: Danza Azteca Xitlalli." Experience a beautiful expression of cultural pride and traditional spiritual roots. Ancient Aztec ceremonies and dances are part of the Danza movement, which dates back to pre-Colombian times, and has been growing throughout the United States for the last 20 years. Through movement, songs, art, presentations, and five annual ceremonies, Xitlalli continues the teachings of our ancestors and works to pass them down to the next generation. Saturday, Sept. 7, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

"Refuse Refuse: Neighborhood cleanup and Storytime." Led by community member Vince Yuen, meet at the 10th Avenue door of the Richmond Library to help with neighborhood cleanup. Every second Tuesday of the month. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

"Breath Meditation and Gentle Yoga with Don Narin." Guided meditation for calming and stress release joint with gentle form of yoga that anyone can do. No movement beyond what is comfortable for you. Very relaxing and calming. Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

"Tutorial: Tech Savy at 60+." Learn basics of tablets and iPhones. It is a seven-class series. Please bring your own devices: Apple/Android. The class is taught in Cantonese. Space is limited, reservations: 415-355-5600. This program is in partnership with Self-Help for the Elderly. Wednesdays, Sept. 4 and 18 and Thursday, Sept. 5, 1:30-2:15 p.m.

"Read Together, Silent Book Club." Bring any book (fiction or nonfiction) for a period of silent reading followed by a discussion when you share what you are reading with others. The club meets every other Wednesday. Sept. 4 and 18, 3-5 p.m.

"Tutorial: Drop-In Tech Support for Older Adults With the Felton Institute Tech Squad." Get one-on-one help with your phone or tablet, searching the internet, setting up an email account and other basic computer tasks. Cantonese-speaking Tech Squad members are available to assist, Friday, Sept. 13, 1:30 -3 p.m.

"Book Club: The Handmaid's Tale." In collaboration with the San Francisco Opera, the San Francisco Public Library presents a special book club event featuring Margaret Atwood's landmark novel "The Handmaid's Tale." This unique literary and cultural experience anticipates the opera's powerful performance of the story. Space is limited, registration required – in person at the Richmond Branch Adult Services Desk or call 415-355-5638. Free copies of the book are available to attendees prior to the event (while supplies last). (The San Francisco Opera performance of The Handmaid's Tale begins Sept. 14.) Thursday, Sept. 5, 5-6 p.m.

"Workshop: The Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia in Our Community." Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia , local resources and ways you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and dementia. Saturday, Sept. 7, noon-1 p.m. (English); 1:30-2:30 (Chinese).

"Presentation: Debunking Myths About Hospice." Lena Asadov, administrator of the Angel Palliative Care and Hospice, Inc. will provide accurate information to help individuals and families make informed decisions about hospice and end-of-life care. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 5:30-7 p.m.

"Workshop: Healthy Living for your Brain and Body." Learn about the latest research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging. Saturday, Sept. 21, noon-1 p.m. (English); 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Chinese).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy September birthday to Mariamane Akopyan, Peg Anderson, Julien Calfayan, Cody Davis, Julie De Lorenzo, Mimi and Zozo D., David G. Dixon, Wendy Durand, Gary E., Harry Fong, Philip Liborio Gangi, Kelvin Gee, Taylor Gee, Carolyn Glaser, River Hauso, David Heller, Lawrence Helman, Steven Hom, Robin Huey, David Jesue, Paula Karolak, Sue Kolb, Hailey Jade Kozakiewicz, Lillian Lippold, Chloe Lue, Odette Lue, Rachel Lue, Rowan Lue, Nicole Meldahl, Thea Mazzalai Nguyen, Kassandra Nolan, Barbara Paschke, Sarai Hernandez Pastrana, Aly Patel, Will Reese, Alexander Thurman Rowland, Danny Saiz, triplets Caroline, Daniel and Max Salvatore, Hannah Schmidt, Rick Sill, Kostya Timchenko, Mark Troianovski, Joey Villanueva, Pandora Wong and Cliff Yee. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

HEART OF THE RICHMOND DISTRICT NIGHT MARKET

This engaging and entertaining event in the Central Richmond District is a family-friendly event highlighting the diverse offerings from small local businesses and will appeal to people of all ages – locals and visitors alike. Activities and booths will include arts and crafts, carnival-style games, small business vendors, resources from community organizations, activities, performances and dining with pre-packaged food options. Providing a fun and festive night out in the neighborhood will introduce locals and visitors to the welcoming and diverse community and increase support for local small businesses. The last of this year's four night markets will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, 4-8 p.m. on Clement Street between 22nd and 25th avenues. Learn more at heartoftherichmonddistrictnightmarket.com.

MEET THE EDITOR OF THE RICHMOND REVIEW

Meet the editor of the Richmond Review: This month's session will not be at the One Richmond storefront at 802 Clement St. Instead, the Meet the Editor session will be at the Heart of the Richmond District Night Market on Sept. 21, 4-8 p.m. Look for us near the 4 Star Theater. For more information, call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

PIANO LESSONS

With my unique teaching method, I will show you how to find every chord on the keyboard – major, minor, sharp and flat – in the first lesson. Then I'll show you how to start playing songs. No need to be able to read music. Call Michael at 415-706-6428 to learn more.

PLANNING ASSOCIATION FOR THE RICHMOND

Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Richmond Recreation Center on 18th Avenue between Clement and California streets. Annual election of board members; D1 Update by Supervisor Connie Chan; Discussion of Prop. K, Uppoer Great Highway closure; Discussion of Richmond District upzoning. Everyone welcome. Questions? Email sfparpresident@gmail.com.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Thursday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Sept. 5, 3:30-4:30 p.m. One Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/528372/.
Friday, Sept. 6, 8–9 a.m., Morning Coffee Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/513212/.
Friday, Sept. 6, 3:30-5 p.m., Clement Street Happy Hour Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/437706/.
Saturday, Sept. 7, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Richmond Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/553131/.
Thursday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Sept. 14, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.
Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday. mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Thursday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.–noon, Rise and Grind Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/413075/.
Thursday, Sept. 19, 4-5 p.m., San Francisco Trash Talk, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/653483/.
Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m.–noon, Ocean Beach Coastal Cleanup Day, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/668565/.
Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Central Richmond Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/

Continued on page 14

‘Should I Stay, or Should I Go?’: A Local Healer’s Personal Journey

By VaNessa VerLee

If you strolled by Java Beach Café in the Sunset District near Ocean Beach this summer, you might have encountered Krystel Pizzuti – an energetic woman adorned in a straw hat and colorful attire. At her table, carefully arranged with stunning crystals, gems, and rocks, Pizzuti offered both stones and their stories to curious visitors.

By the invitation of Pat McGuire, Java Beach’s owner, whose “energy is seismic,” Pizzuti, a nurse by training and healer by heart, is navigating a transformative journey while doing her best to stay rooted in San Francisco.

Pizzuti lives with her husband, Joe Girito – a maker, DJ, yoga teacher and healer – in a sunlit apartment at 31st Avenue and Fulton Street, her third home in the Richmond District. For the past two decades, she worked as a registered nurse. While she cherished the role for many years, the demands eventually took a toll on her spirit.

Raised by a single mother on Long Island, New York, and significantly older than her three younger siblings, Pizzuti naturally gravitated toward caregiving. This instinct led her to nursing and an affinity for plants, which she intuitively decorated with gems and crystals. What began as an aesthetic choice revealed itself as something more profound when she noticed the plants adorned with stones thrived better than others. This observation sparked her interest in the healing properties of crystals.

“The nurse-patient relationship is what kept me in it,” she reflected.

However, the onset of COVID-19 marked a turning point. The pandemic’s shift from personal interaction to treating critically ill patients was emotionally draining.

“For two-and-a-half years, I took care of dead people,” she says. This experience prompted her to reconsider her career and explore new possibilities.

A pivotal moment occurred a week later at the Alameda Flea Market when Girito spotted a family selling stunning gems. A suggestion to explore this path resonated deeply with Pizzuti.

“I was like, bing! That’s it! The whole time, this is what my life has been leading to,” she said.

This revelation set her on a new path aligned with her passions.

Pizzuti soon connected with the Gem and Mineral Society on Judah Street, where the older members welcomed her enthusiastic, fresh energy. The “rockhounds” there provided her with “Lapidary Journals” from the 1950s, dense with information about stones.

“I treated this path – learning about stones – as my full-time job,” she said.

Her days were spent at the Richmond Library, her favorite branch because of the cavernous, open windows and huge rows of tables. She would immerse herself in the study of crystals with the same dedication she had shown to nursing since she first started learning it at the age of 16 in her vocational school in New York.

Now, Pizzuti combines her nursing expertise with her newfound passion for crystal healing. She and Girito have a vision to create a sacred space for community healing, education and creativity. The high cost of living in San Francisco has made it hard to know how to implement that vision.

“For years, I’ve been in this dance of ‘Do I stay, or do I go?’” Pizzuti said with a pained smile. “It was so hard here for so long. But every time I go to leave, San Francisco comes in and like, no, no, no, we’ve got you. She scoops me up and puts me on the tee and just starts feeding me again.”

Pizzuti is pursuing certification as a board-certified nurse coach, developing programs centered on balance, coherence and self-healing. Her approach integrates the scientific with the metaphysical, making crystal healing understandable and practical for a broader audience.

Although no longer aligned with her deepest purpose, Pizzuti has returned to nursing in short stints for financial stability during this transition. She embraces the challenges and is learning to navigate the pain of doing what no longer feels fulfilling but is necessary for survival.

“I’m giving myself permission to feel what I feel,” she said.

Pizutti encourages people to explore the neighborhood to connect with their own relationship to stones.

“Geology is all around; you just have to open your eyes and pay attention,” she said.

She recommends visiting Golden Gate Park to see outcroppings of jasper and exploring the giant stone slabs of amazonite at 47th Avenue and Taraval Street. Even the simplest rocks in your yard can offer grounding and inspiration.

In San Francisco’s ever-evolving landscape, Pizzuti’s dedication to her craft and community shines brightly. Her journey offers a grounded form of healing amid the City’s changes.

For those interested in exploring crystal healing and Reiki, Pizzuti is building her presence on Instagram as @krystle.freq.xo and welcomes inquiries about workshops and sessions for both children and adults.

Richmond District resident Krystel Pizzuti is a nurse who is pursuing a path of healing with crystals. *Photos by VaNessa VerLee.*

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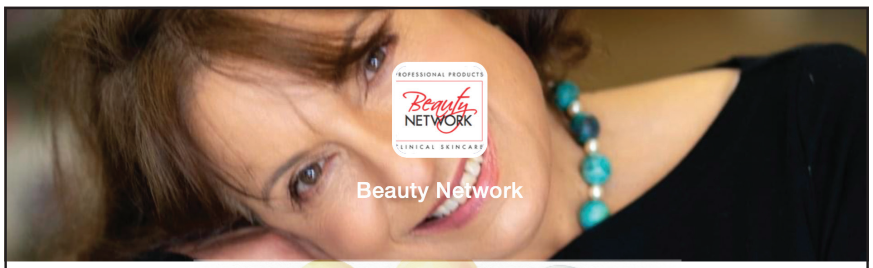

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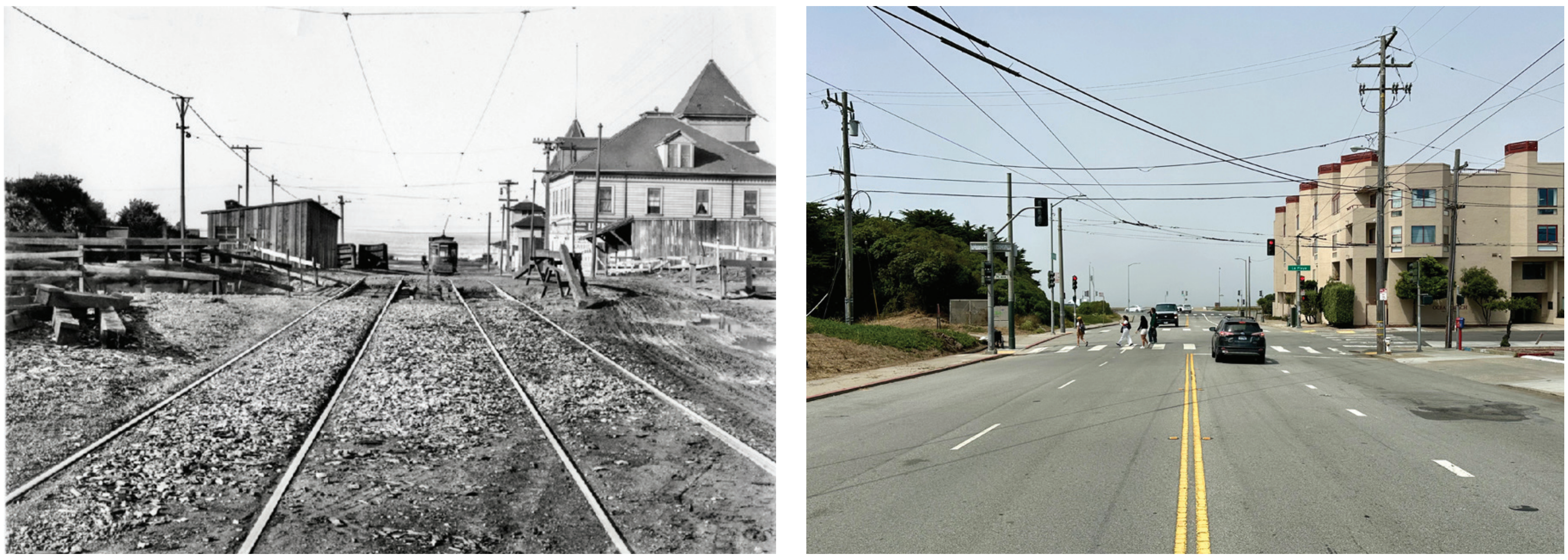
‘Then and Now’: Fulton and La Playa Streets



Left: This view is looking west on Fulton Street toward Ocean Beach at La Playa Street (then called 49th Avenue) on Jan. 10, 1913. Many of the old “Then and Now” photos show the west side crisscrossed with streetcar lines. All the working rail lines are gone from the Richmond District. ***Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.*** **Right: Electric power lines above the road now power the 5-Fulton bus with a terminus at La Playa and Cabrillo streets. To the right of the photograph is the Safeway supermarket.** ***Photo by Michael Durand.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 12

event/613409/.
Thursday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.–noon, Fort Miley Cleanup and Workday, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/641163/.
Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.–noon, Richmond District Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/441884/.
Saturday, Sept. 28, 10–11:30 a.m., KEEP Ocean Beach Clean, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/399341/.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying “older stamps” from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the readers who generously donated to the Richmond Review and those who signed up on the Patreon funding campaign. Your contributions helps keep us financially healthy. If you signed up or donated and haven’t received Richmond Review branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign, send a check to Richmond Review, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116 or send via PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Thank you!

Cal’s Pet Supply

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WINE ON THE WESTSIDE

SAVE THE DATE for Wine on the Westside 2024, Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m at the Park Chalet. In recognition of 44 years serving youth, families, and seniors on the west side of San Francisco, we hope you’ll join us at a fundraiser benefiting The Richmond Neighborhood Center at The Park Chalet. This event will celebrate the outstanding achievements of the youth the Neighborhood Center serves in 10 public schools, the dedication of its volunteers in enhancing the quality of life for seniors, and the relentless efforts of their staff in strengthening our community and local businesses. Highlights of the evening include music by the Evie Laden Band, a silent auction featuring local restaurants, businesses, exciting sports and entertainment experiences and a brief program showcasing our impactful programs and future growth aspirations. Stay tuned to richmondsf.org for details.

WORLD ARTS WEST DANCE FESTIVAL

World Arts West celebrates its 45th annual dance festival, its third at the Presidio. The three-weekend festival showcases culture, wisdom and beauty through global dance and music, with a theme this year of “Dance as Activism.” The festival will include artist dialogues and dance workshops at Dance Mission on Sept. 1 and a day of performances at Presidio Tunnel Tops on Sunday, Sept. 8. Bring a blanket, picnic, family and friends and enjoy free music and dance from around the globe with the Golden Gate Bridge as backdrop. Presidio Tunnel Tops, East Meadow, 210 Lincoln Blvd., Sunday, Sept. 8, 1-4 p.m., free. Learn more at worldartswest.org.

Announcements: $1 per word, 20 word minimum. Share birthday greetings, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

Announcements run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,200 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (average of 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 22nd of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116 or use PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or a community event announcements. Free.

We support small businesses: Free announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

‘PHOTOS OF THE MONTH’ ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the “Photos of the Month” gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on or near the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

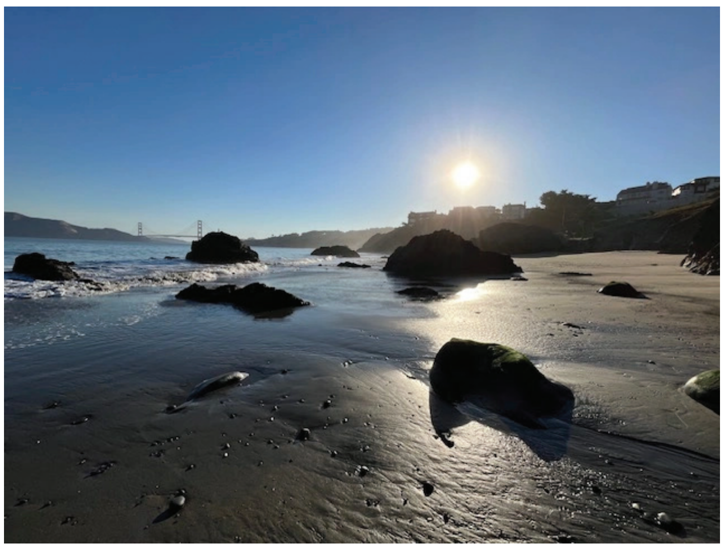

Photo by Kai. @kai_life_scope.

Owners Often Ignore Signs, Law Prohibiting Pets at Farmers Markets

Continued from page 1

SORRY NO PETS
CALIFORNIA STATE HEALTH LAWS RESTRICT ALL ANIMALS FROM THE FARMERS MARKETS
EXCEPT SERVICE ANIMALS
PLEASE NO PETS ALLOWED

Many pet owners ignore signs stating state laws that prohibit their dogs and other pets from farmers markets. *Photo by Andy Fischer.*

not qualify as service animals under the ADA, and are not allowed at the market. Under California Penal Code 365.7, anyone who knowingly misrepresents their pet as a service dog is "guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment."

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is the local authority tasked with enforcing "no pet" laws in our neighborhood farmers markets. A spokesperson for the agency stated that it, "routinely inspects markets and enforces retail food facility laws," which "protects public health by preventing animal waste from contaminating food." This year, DPH reported having received no complaints, but suggested: "If you would like to report cases of non-service dogs at a certified farmers' market, please call 311."

Andy Naja-Riese is the CEO of the Agricultural Institute of Marin which manages nine Bay Area markets, including the Clement Street Market.

"Since we are a certified farmers market that is permitted by the SF Department of Environmental Health, dogs and pets are not allowed in the market unless they are service animals, Naja-Riese said. "We are required to have signage alerting shoppers about this law, so we post signs at market entrances and information on our website explaining the state Health and Safety Code and ask patrons with pets to exit the market. It's our shared responsibility to follow health and safety codes and keep the farmers market in good standing with SF Dept. of Environmental Health. While we love our pets and many of us in farmers market management are dog owners, unless they are a service animal, dogs aren't allowed in the market."

Fulfilling their obligation to enforce no-dog laws can be a difficult task for market managers. Many dog owners simply ignore the signs and can become combative when asked politely to take their dogs to the sidewalk. Others simply do not think the law should apply to friendly and well-behaved dogs, such as theirs. Some incorrectly claim their pets are "service animals." One manager commented that when she asks dog owners to move their pets to the sidewalk, she moves on as quickly as possible to avoid an often-unfriendly confrontation.

The California laws relating to dogs in farmers markets have existed since at least the 1990s and reflect similar prohibitions against live animals in food establishments published in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) "Model Food Code." The FDA offers these model codes as examples to states and localities responsible for creating their own health and safety regulations, reviewing them every four years to ensure that they represent the best available food safety science.

The model codes prohibit pets from food establishments based on the risk of food contamination: "Animals carry disease-causing organisms and can transmit pathogens to humans through direct and/or indirect contamination of food and food-contact surfaces. Animals shed hair continuously and may deposit liquid or fecal waste, creating the need for vigilance and more frequent and rigorous cleaning efforts."

Dogs present other safety risks, especially to small children who are more susceptible to being bitten or jumped on in crowded markets.

Some states, like Oregon, do not have mandatory health and safety codes that specifically regulate certified farmers markets. Unlike California, Oregon only suggests certain guidelines to farmers markets, including, "Vendor animals must be kept a minimum of 20 feet from any food handling, display or storage. Customer animals are allowed, but it is recommended that markets require that animals be kept on leashes."

In states such as Oregon, individual farmers markets or local authorities have set the rules regarding dogs in markets. Some have taken creative approaches to consider the interests of pet owners as well as those who are uncomfortable with dogs in markets. For example, the Hollywood District in Portland allows dogs only between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Visitors who do not wish to share the market with dogs can shop outside of these hours. Other districts have designated some farmers markets as pet-friendly and disallowed dogs from larger, more crowded farmers markets. Ironically, the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., operates a farmers market on the National Mall where, contrary to the FDA's guidance, "pets are welcome," if leashed and friendly towards people and other dogs.

While California law prohibits non-service dogs in certified farmers markets, Angie Petitt, founder of the Sunset Mercantile/Outer Sunset Farmer's Market and Mercantile, has worked hard to promote pet-friendly events that do not run afoul of the health codes.

"We are big fans of dogs and the dog culture in San Francisco. While dogs are welcome at our many other outdoor events – we have even hosted rescues and are having a dog days-themed Inner Sunset Flea Market this month complete with a dog parade – we do ask that attendees walk their dogs on the sidewalk or our beautiful neighboring greenway during the weekly Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile to comply with city regulations."

Over the years, California law has loosened up somewhat regarding pets in outdoor food establishments. In 2014, then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation that revised California's law to allow dogs, under certain circumstances, in outdoor patios of restaurants. The FDA, acknowledging the growing number of pet owners, also revised its 2022 Model Food Codes to allow dogs in some outdoor dining areas.

Unfortunately, pet prohibitions in food establishments have resulted in yet another divisive issue between neighbors. Dog owners, who do not want to leave their pets home alone, turn a blind eye to dogs marking their territories on produce stands, reacting to other dogs or frightening children. People – many dog owners included – who follow the law resent those who disregard it. All this creates stress in one of our most healthy, peaceful weekend activities.

Looking at the laws and regulations followed in other states, there appears to be some room for compromise. Dog owners who want a change could request that their representatives in the California legislature take a new look at the science justifying the animal prohibition in the Health and Safety Codes. The public could also ask the FDA to revisit the issue in its upcoming 2026 Model Food Code. In the meantime, experts say complying with the law supports and protects our neighborhood farmers markets.

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4 Star to Feature Linda Smith, Home-Recording Pioneer, at Live Performance

By Noma Faingold

At the age of 69, songwriter, musician and home-recording pioneer Linda Smith is making her live San Francisco debut Sept. 20 at the Richmond District's 4 Star Theater, a 123-seat venue mostly known for its eclectic film programming. The booking is part of a four-city, West Coast tour Smith never expected to experience.

San Francisco-based indie musician, Britta Leijonflycht, who will play bass and keyboards for Smith's four dates, was a catalyst in bringing Smith's thoughtful, bare bones music to a new audience.

"I was never really much of a performer, but there seems to be an interest in my music," said Smith, a native of Baltimore, who still lives there. "Younger people are listening to me."

Renewed interest in Smith's melancholy, yet melodic pop music, mostly recorded on four-track and eight-track tape machines, may be the result of album reissues, including the 2021 release of a compilation of songs called, "Till Another Time: 1988-1996," and two additional albums in 2024 (available on vinyl and streaming) from her vast catalogue, "Nothing Else Matters" and "I So Liked Spring."

Smith did not perform live much in the past. In the 1980s, she was in a band for a little more than three years called The Woods. She even moved to New York City during that time. But she did not like living there. She developed asthma and felt isolated.

"Day-to-day life in New York was stressful and alienating. I don't have the personality for that grind," she said. "I appreciate the boringness of Baltimore."

She preferred recording her own music at home.

"I was doing it for me. I would make cassettes and sell them through the mail," Smith said. "People would find out about me through reviews in publications. It was all very old style."

Smith never made a living from her music. She always held full-time jobs, including working in the advertising department at Ringling Bros. in Northern Virginia. She also had a job at Whole Foods in the bakery. She went back to school in the early 2000s to study art. During those years, she was painting, not creating music.

"I'm a one-thing-at-a-time person," she said.

When she retired from nine-to-five jobs, there was room in her life to pick up music again. Smith did not necessarily embrace all the technological advances in home recording, but she does use Audacity software and bought the necessary equipment to make her new ideas come to life. Her musical influences of girl groups and singers of the 1960s, like The Supremes, The Shangri-Las and Dionne Warwick, as well as post-punk bands, such as The Raincoats and Young Marble Giants, have remained.

Smith's musical genre has been referred to as jangle pop and indie pop. Often her music has been compared to that of the Velvet Underground.

"I don't really see it," she said. "Except when it comes to (lead singer and solo artist) Nico. She was an influence. Her uniqueness is what I aimed for. There was no one like her."

The 1995 song, "Nothing Else Matters," for example, sounds like a haunting lullaby and the bouncy "The Answer to Your Question" contains lyrics that ironically do not offer answers, most notably in the chorus, "The answer to your question is lost in digression. The answer to your question remains in suspension."

Musician Linda Smith will make her San Francisco debut at a live show at the 4 Star Theater on Sept. 20. *Courtesy photo.*

Adam Bergeron, who owns CinemaSF, the company that programs and operates the Balboa, Vogue and 4-Star theaters, had not heard of Smith until Leijonflycht, who worked for him years ago in Santa Cruz at a crepe café, suggested he book her. He often takes suggestions from the 4 Star staff, employees of Tunnel Records (a retail shop located in the theater's lobby) and audience members in choosing musical acts at the 4 Star. He tries to schedule one live show per week.

Once he was exposed to Smith's music, he found it captivating.

"It's so gentle, groovy and poetic. It's daydreamy," Bergeron said. "It also has that outsider feel. It definitely seems like one person's specific work. Genius can exist in these little pockets. I can't wait to see her."

Smith is excited to play with a band, which includes Leijonflycht and drummer Paul Krolian, who are both members of the group Smashing Times. Smith will sing and play rhythm guitar.

"The audience won't see dancing or back-up singers," she said. "It's not like Taylor Swift. I'm pretty much seated. It will be very simple."

After more than 35 years, in some ways the industry has caught up with Smith's approach to making music with what is known as "bedroom recording." Top-selling and award-winning artist Billie Eilish created her hits at home, as have many other successful

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Upper Great Highway

Continued from page 1

– to actually have input about what do with that space.”

Chan said there is already a 2021 study which includes a compromise design, with a promenade that will allow recreation, as well as a two-direction, two-lane roadway for motor vehicles.

“That’s something that can be done,” she said. “We know that it can be done, so why not do that? Because that actually brings people together. We meet all the needs. We meet all the demands so that we don’t have to divide our communities.”

Lux lives in the Outer Sunset, not far from the highway.

“I live in a neighborhood that used to be full of community spaces like Fleishhacker Pool; there was a skating rink down the street from my house, there was Playland (at-the-Beach) up the road. I didn’t get to experience all that. I live in a neighborhood where none of that’s there,” Lux said. “And when the Great Highway opened as a community space that completely changed my family’s life and the lives of many of the neighbors that we know.

“And so, when we think about community impact for this space, the people in the Outer Sunset have the most to gain. We’re going to live next to the City’s most amazing park spaces,” he said. “And when we think about the impact on our businesses, imagine all those people coming to those businesses who’ve never been to the Outer Sunset before.

“And then think about the flip side. What utility does the Great Highway serve for merchants? For the merchants in my neighborhood, you can’t get on and off the Great Highway in my neighborhood. The only shopping that the Great Highway facilitates is people in the Outer Richmond getting to big-box stores (in Daly City).”

Corriea rejects the idea that the utility of this section of the UGH would necessarily be compromised. He said that since 2021, when the compromise plan went into effect, motor vehicle traffic has increased along that stretch of road, not decreased.

He also mentioned that the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is looking at changing the intersection of Sloat and Skyline boulevards to make traffic flow better around the Zoo. If that happens, it will make going from the UGH via Sloat to Skyline and then into Daly City (or the reverse) easier than it is now.

Engardio admitted that this was essentially the choice voters will be making in November.

“So, that’s the way it will be if Prop. K fails,” Engardio said. “If Prop. K passes then we can turn left at Lincoln instead and then … go down Lincoln and take Sunset down to the same spot you would end up at had you turned left at Sloat.

“So, that’s the question: By turning left at Sloat, we don’t get a park. By turning left at Lincoln, we get a park. There’s tremendous potential benefit to a park and we can still get where we need to go by turning left at Lincoln, then it’s a win-win.”

Lux agreed.

“What we’re debating tonight are two routes you could take, Lincoln or Sloat, that if you put them on a map, you create a rectangle,” Lux said. “This entire debate is which side of the rectangle are we driving on. The trip-time impact is minimal. So why not lean into this opportunity to create an oceanfront park for everyone and have a pretty similar commute from what we have today.”

But it is the commute we have today that Chan is not happy about. And she’s not sure how accurate the statistics are which give an average increase in drive time of about three minutes from the Richmond District to Daly City when the UGH is closed.

“During the pandemic my mom was sick at UCSF Parnassus. And I had to drive from the Outer Richmond to Parnassus and really use Chain-of-Lakes (Drive),” Chan said. “And even though the three minutes isn’t always the case because if there’s 19th Avenue construction or even as just recently with the Golden Gate Park concerts, that, if you have experience, is real traffic congestion and it was difficult for me every day to visit my mom while she was getting her pancreatic cancer treatment.”

Lux countered that the statistics are reliable.

“We’ve had years of data. Multiple transportation agencies have studied this, and they have concluded what we all knew all along the way,” he said. “The Great Highway closes all the time because of sand, so we have real-time data on what happens to all the trips that rely on the Great Highway to get from the Outer Richmond to Daly City.”

Engardio says that Chan’s preferred compromise would be the most expensive compared to the other options, however, Chan countered that while it’s true her plan would cost $30 million to fully implement, there is no study about the cost of a fully built-out park.

“We don’t actually know how much it will cost to establish the park. We don’t know how much it will cost to fix the traffic lights and calming for Lincoln Way. We actually don’t know a lot of things about how much it will cost,” Chan said.

She then read the city controller’s statement about Prop. K.

“‘This ordinance cannot bind future mayors or Board of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose.’ It actually also means there’s no commitment about how much money is going to be spent.

“Even though it says there will be a cost savings because now you will not have to maintain the road, because you have closed the road, but if there’s a park it will require maintenance, doesn’t it? So, at the end of the day, cost is an issue for us.”

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Not long ago, it was easy to forget that San Francisco was surrounded on three sides by water. Much of the coast and Bay were walled off by a double-decker freeway, a highway, an Army post and industrial sites.

Our City has come a long way. San Franciscans today can enjoy the Embarcadero promenade, restored marshes and bayside parks like Crissy Field and Crane Cove.

Until now, the west side has been left behind in that progress. Instead, our oceanfront continues to be dominated by a four-lane highway. That's finally starting to change.

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors decided to implement the decade-old plan to close the Great Highway Extension south of Sloat, which has been actively crumbling into the sea, to protect our sewage system against climate change and sea-level rise. Vehicle traffic will be rerouted inland, with plans for new traffic lights to smooth the way.

With the utility of the Great Highway as a north/south commuter road already changing, what do westsiders have to give up to create a beautiful oceanfront park? Fortunately, very little.

After the extension closure, drivers will need to turn inland at Sloat. If drivers are willing to turn earlier, at Lincoln, we'll have space for two miles of new parkland for joy, community and Pacific Ocean bliss. Yes, we'll need to make major traffic improvements at key intersections – new street designs, signal lights, and turn lanes – to help everyone get where they need to go.

Conversely, converting a portion of the road to a park takes almost no work. Simply closing the gates to cars will actually save the city money. The city controller's office estimates that a full-time park saves nearly $5 million in maintenance fees.

That is a compromise everyone can love: Those driving across the Sunset get traffic improvements for a smoother route, and we will finally have access to an oceanfront park that's accessible for all. People will look back on this time and wonder why it took so long. We have only one coast.

So what are we waiting for?

Jane Lew and Heidi Moseson, residents of the Richmond and Sunset districts.

Editor:

I am writing this letter to call attention to a very small individual who is making a very big impact on the feeling of community in the Central Richmond District. This small individual happens to be an orange cat named Picasso.

Picasso, described by his guardians as "limber, athletic and strong," takes twice-daily walks around the neighborhood in a fashion usually reserved for the canine world – on a leash. While this may seem a bit restrictive, Picasso enjoys the experience, as he holds his head high, sniffs the air, follows interesting scents and greets with a friendly cat-smile all the neighbors who come to say hello. And there are many neighbors – including residents, families in the playground, people working outside, runners and walkers – who now know of this little cat and look forward to seeing him. This is part of what makes a community.

So, if readers of this letter happen to be in the neighborhood of 19th Avenue and Lake Street in the morning or early evening, and if they happen to see a small, orange figure walking with a regal air of confidence, leading a person, on a leash, they are invited to come and say "hello."

Picasso the Cat reminds us that often it is the small things that bring communities together in a big way.

Jacqueline Summerfield

Send letters to:
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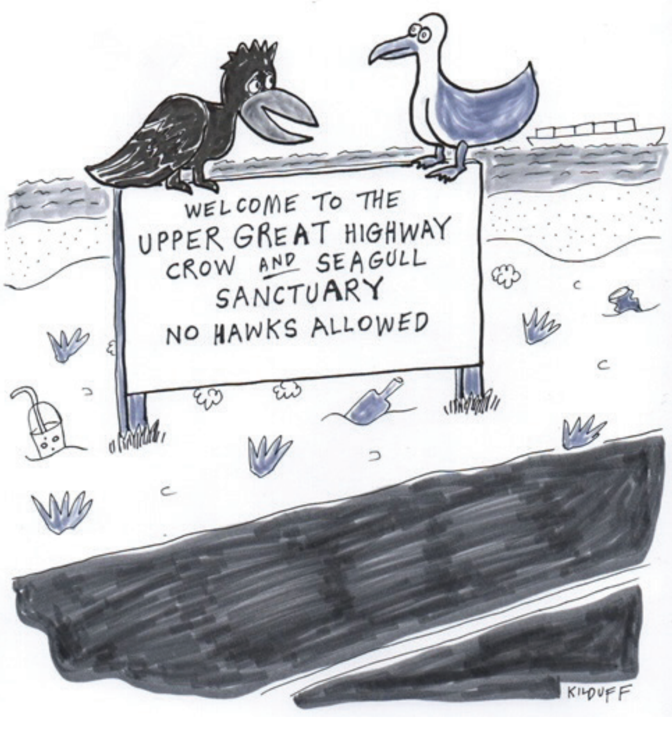
Kilduff's Korner

By Paul Kilduff



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Linda Smith's SF Debut

Continued from page 16

Adam Bergeron programs and operates the 4 Star Theater. He calls Smith's music "... gentle, groovy and poetic. It's daydreamy." *Photo by Noma Faingold.*

musicians.

"With the technological advances, someone like Billie Eilish has more available to her to get the sound she wants," Smith said. "Artists can just stay home, record and take their time."

Smith played a few dates in the United Kingdom last year and a few gigs in her area this past spring. She is aware the Bay Area currently has a thriving indie music scene and hopes to draw an audience.

"I never saw myself as being a well-known musician," she said. "I had a simple desire to put songs together and get them released in some way. It was all very low key. What's happening now is like icing on the cake."

Linda Smith will make her *San Francisco debut Sept. 20 at the 4 Star Theater, 2200 Clement St. Richmond District duo April Magazine opens. DJ Jess B will be spinning between sets. Get information and tickets ($20) at cinemasf.com. For more information, call 415-418-6712.*

Tennis

Continued from page 6

it a convenient stop for those coming from Marin.

Lum said his favorite part of the job is seeing people come back to tennis.

"People learn to play as kids, go to college, have lives and want to return to play on their own terms, which is really awesome. I love seeing that," he said.

Golden State Tennis is located at 5129 Geary Blvd., between 15th and 16th avenues. Hours are noon-6 p.m. every day except Mondays. Learn more at goldenstate.tennis.

Gordon Lum, owner of Golden State Tennis on Geary Boulevard near 15th Avenue, has become an expert at restringing rackets and stocks a variety of tennis and pickleball equipment and supplies. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Richmond Native Working on Film About Bats, 'The Invisible Mammal'

By Clarisse Kim

Dr. Kristin Jonasson doing white-nose syndrome field research for Bat Conservation International. ***Courtesy photo by Skip Hobbie for "The Invisible Mammal."***

Seeing millions of bats flying around at sunset might make a lot of people run away in horror. In contrast, Richmond District native Kristin Tièche draws inspiration from the spectacle of nature to continue working on her film about the flying mammals.

Currently under post-production editing, Tièche's documentary, "The Invisible Mammal," follows a team of all-women scientists as they defend North America's bats from both deadly disease and hysteria. This year marks the five-year production mark for Tièche, producers Matthew Podolsky and Holly Mosher, and editor Heidi Zimmerman.

However, this dream has been 25 years in the making. Tièche's film traces its roots back to more than 20 years ago, in 1999, when Tièche was pursuing a graduate degree in film at Syracuse University.

"During the summer, my classmates and I used to go out on this patio, drinking our beers at night," Tièche said, "One night, I remember seeing something fly by my head, and I looked up and the sky was just teeming with bats – it seemed like there were hundreds of thousands of them. I've never seen a natural phenomenon like that in my life!"

The sight alone was enough to inspire Tièche to learn about bats. Ten years later, in 2009, Tièche read about white-nose syndrome and how it threatened North American bat populations.

According to "The Invisible Mammal" star and UC Santa Cruz scientist Winifred Frick, white-nose syndrome is an infectious disease caused by a fungus, Pseudogymnoascus destructans (PD). This pathogen is found in caves and mines where bats hibernate. The PD fungus infects the hibernating bats, causing a white fuzzy growth around the bats' noses.

"Anybody who has suffered a fungal infection, such as athlete's foot, knows that it can be incredibly irritating," Tièche says, "The fungus can often wake you up in the middle of the night."

Bats experience a similar irritation, and often wake up from hibernation due to PD. The more frequently the bats stir, the faster they deplete their energy reserves. At a certain point in the winter, the bats burn their entire fat storage and eventually starve to death. The disease has caused widespread declines of hibernating bat populations since 2006.

Upon learning about white-nose syndrome, Tièche grew inspired to make a film about bats. In 2016, Tièche published a 10-minute film about Corky Quirk, a bat tour guide for the Yolo Basin Foundation and the founder of NorCal Bats. Quirk and Tièche explored California's largest urban bat colony – an Interstate-80 home to 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats.

The film, "The Bat Rescuer," was met with fascination. Tièche said her film helped to shift public opinion of the animal into a more positive light.

"People loved the film," Tièche said. "After the screening, people would come up to me and say that they wanted to go out and see a bat flight, or to help the bats. I knew that I was onto something. This story resonates with people."

While touring her film, Tièche connected with Podolsky, Mosher and Zimmerman, who later became her producers and editors for "The Invisible Mammal." Together, the filmmakers wanted to extend "The Bat Rescuer" from a short film to a 90-minute feature.

In 2019, Tièche stumbled across a research article written by Frick and her team of scientists who discovered a way to help bats combat white-nose syndrome. Frick observed that fatter bats were more likely to survive hibernation with white-nose syndrome, since they had a greater fat storage to deplete. In an operation cheekily dubbed Operation Fat Bat, Frick and her team began an initiative to feed bats in Michigan in order to fatten them as much as possible before winter hibernation.

Tièche and her group of producers fell in love with Frick's mission and decided to center the feature film around Operation Fat Bat. The team began filming in 2019, following Frick to Michigan to document their efforts.

According to Tièche, the filming process was magical from the beginning. One of Tièche's favorite moments was filming at Bracken Cave, the largest known bat colony in the world and home to more than 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats.

"When the bats at Bracken Cave emerge, they create this vortex called a batnado, flying in circles through this pristine environment," Tièche said. "It's a whole different experience when you witness 20 million bats flying through the sunset – thinking about it now gives me the chills."

However, filming was not without its challenges. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, with bats as the main scapegoat. Tièche knew she had to address the hysteria of COVID-19 in her film.

"Suddenly, the whole world shuts down, and everybody starts to blame bats. Misinformation was everywhere," Tièche said. "During this time, Winnifred stepped up to debunk all the myths; the reality is that humans are to blame for spreading the disease, not the bats."

Tièche and her team were able to work around lockdown restrictions, editing the footage they already had and filming locally once restrictions were lifted. Tièche attributes a great part of her success to her team, who helped provide crucial direction and insight to the entire filmmaking process.

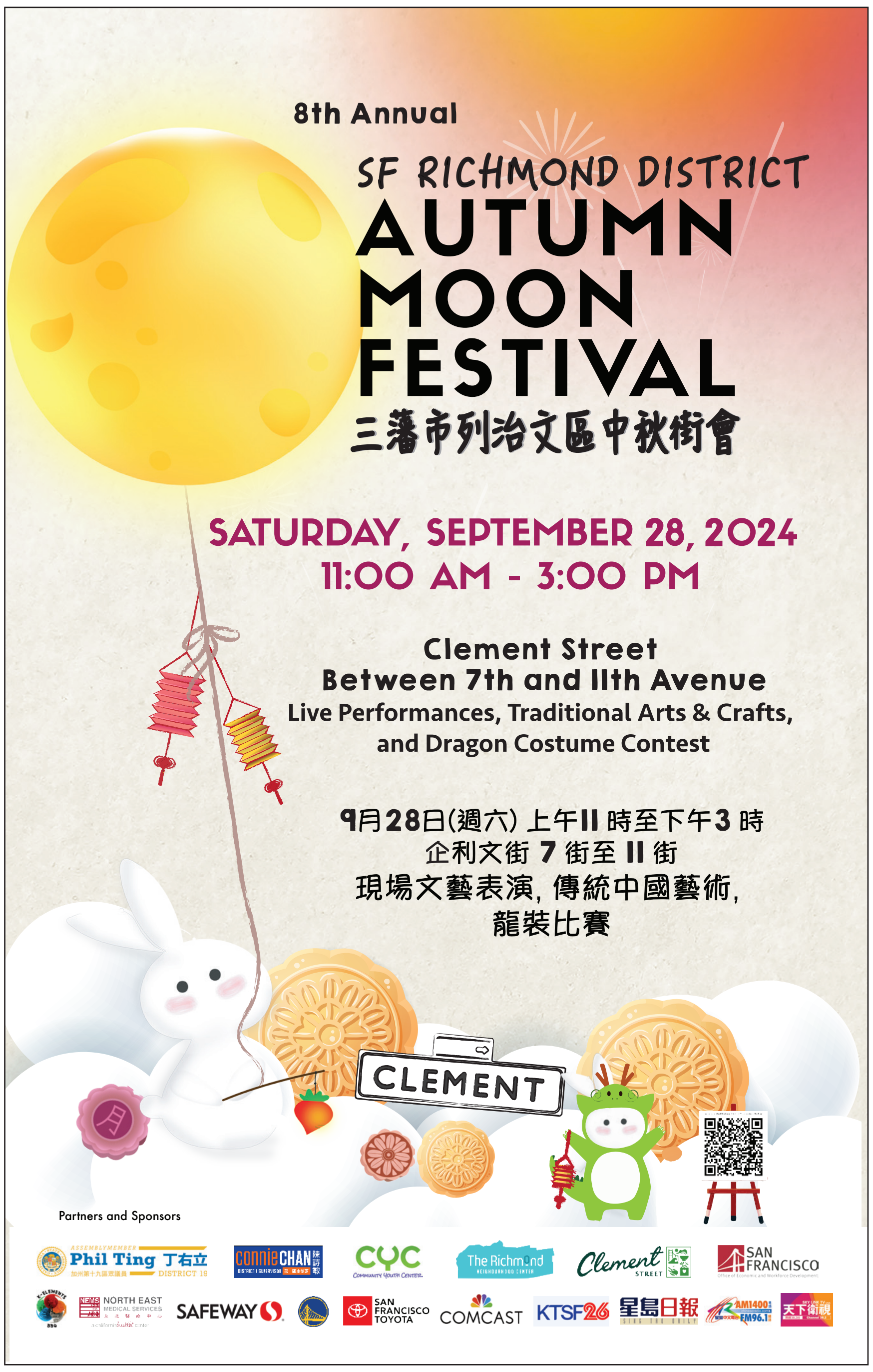
Now, Tièche and her crew are armed with all the footage they need and are currently fundraising to cover post-production costs. They hosted an event on Aug. 28 at the Ocean Plant to raise money for the feature, and the team plans to host a similar event in Larkspur on Oct. 1.

"The Invisible Mammal" is set to premiere in 2025. Alongside fundraising and post-production, Tièche loves to share her bat wonder with the community. A Richmond resident of 29 years, Tièche loves to hold local bat tours and watching sessions in local parks.

"It's just been a surreal experience," Tièche said. "It's just been the most magical thing!"

To learn more about the film and how to support its post-production process, visit theinvisiblemammal.com.

Spectators at the Bracken Cave bat emergence, Central Texas. ***Courtesy photo by Kristin Tièche for "The Invisible Mammal."***



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11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Clement Street
Between 7th and 11th Avenue
Live Performances, Traditional Arts & Crafts,
and Dragon Costume Contest

9月28日(週六) 上午11時至下午3時
企利文街7街至11街
現場文藝表演, 傳統中國藝術,
龍裝比賽

Partners and Sponsors
Assemblymember Phil Ting 丁右立 District 19
Connie Chan District 1 Supervisor
CYC Community Youth Center
The Richmond Neighborhood Center
Clement Street
San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development
North East Medical Services
Safeway
San Francisco Toyota
Comcast
KTSF 26
星島日報
AM1400 FM96.1
天下衛視

CONNIE
CHAN:
DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Endorsed by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Adam Schiff, Teachers, Nurses and Fire Fighters

"Supervisor Connie Chan has been a fearless champion for District 1, fighting for small businesses, seniors and working families. I'm pleased to endorse Connie Chan to continue her advocacy for District 1."

Nancy Pelosi

As our Supervisor, Connie Chan has been our independent voice, pushing City Hall to do what's right for our families.

✓ Secured retired Police Ambassadors and Street Crisis Teams in the Richmond

✓ Pushed for 100% affordable senior housing at 4200 Geary

✓ Fought cuts to critical nutrition and recreation programs for seniors and working families

✓ Added new traffic safety measures at Arguello, Fulton Street and 38th and Geary

✓ Championed the "Heart of the Richmond" Night Market, Film Festivals and community events

Connie Chan fights for us — and she always will.

Have You Registered to Vote?

✓OTE

Ballots will be sent for the November election in just a few weeks. It's easy to sign up to register to vote and receive your mail-in ballot.

Just visit **SF.gov/register-vote** and make your voice heard!

connie CHAN 陳詩敏
DISTRICT 1 SUPERVISOR 第一區市參事

Learn more at ConnieChanSF.com

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